

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS GROUP

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 27

For week ending 5 July 1949

Volume II

The International Week

The ERP crisis was temporarily bridged by a US-UK compromise which, while affording the British some protection against loss of gold or dollar reserves, still introduced a greater degree of multilateral competition into intra-European trade. The US proposed a solution of the Arab refugee problem whereby Egypt would surrender the Gaza strip with its 200,000 refugees to Israel which in return would agree to take them in. At Geneva, a timetable was adopted for the establishment of a Western oriented labor international, but some critical organizational problems remained to be solved.

- o -

Organizational problems of new labor international still unsettled. Although the Geneva Conference of Free Trade Unions reached basic agreement on the initial steps for establishing a democratic labor international, critical problems of organization remain unsettled. Unless the Western trade unions, representing thirty-four countries with an estimated 42 million workers, can resolve these problems before their November meeting, the constitutional congress to launch the new federation will convene with the alignment of some Western organizations still in doubt.

The decision to begin work 25 July on the formation of the new international reflects the determination of non-Communist labor leaders to activate the new international promptly as a counterbalance to the Sovietized WFTU. Acceptance of this decision was accelerated by the close-working relationship between the AFL and CIO. The substantial progress thus achieved was to some extent offset, however, by dissension between the AFL and the British Trades Union Congress over (1) eligibility to membership of non-Communist labor organizations from areas where the Western European-US concept of free trade unionism is little understood, e.g. India and Argentina; (2) feasibility of creating a large, well-equipped international capable of dealing aggressively with the WFTU (the UK supports a smaller, less costly organization); and (3) selection of a Secretary General who will lead the new international effectively without seeking to dominate it in the interests of one or more of the big powers. The need to resolve these problems will probably plague Western labor leaders increasingly in coming months.

DOCUMENT NO. 27

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

DECLASSIFIED

CLASS CHANGED TO

NEXT REVIEW DATE:

AUTH: INT 70-2

DATE: 3/04/78

REVIEWER: 006514

ECOSOC and Point Four. The ninth session of the UN Economic and Social Council opening in Geneva this week will have as its main task the shaping of the expanded program for economic development of under-developed countries stimulated by the Point Four Program. Owing largely to US efforts, discussion of Point Four in the UN regional commissions and specialized agencies has thus far been kept very general in nature in anticipation of a definitive action by ECOSOC. The US favors the establishment of an ECOSOC committee to review and revise the Secretariat report on technical assistance and economic development and to coordinate the work of the various UN subsidiary bodies in these fields. Since the US has taken the initiative in Point Four and since it is the only country in a position to supply the bulk of the required financial support, it is clear that US wishes in these preliminary procedural matters will generally prevail. The debate in this first formal consideration of Point Four by the UN should disclose not only the general form of the program but also the line which the USSR, thus far extremely non-committal, will finally adopt toward what will be essentially a US-inspired program.

- 0 -

WFDY to finance participation of colonial youth groups at Budapest Congress. The decision of Czech and Hungarian youth organizations affiliated with the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students to finance the participation of more than 300 "colonial youths" in August Youth Festival and World Youth Congress reflects Communist determination to train a "hard core" of organizers in colonial and semi-colonial areas, particularly in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Forty of the anticipated "colonial" delegation will be young Indians, Vietnamese, Indonesians and South Africans who have been studying in Hungary for more than a year. The organization of

- 2 -

~~SECRET~~

recruiting committees in Puerto Rico and Viet Nam apparently indicates that a particular effort is being made to obtain representation from these areas. Meanwhile, the WFDY will probably continue to serve Soviet propaganda objectives by fully exploiting instances of "imperialist repression", such as the recent imposition of death sentences for eight youths by the Hyderabad Government.

Emir favors federal union in Libya. Fear that a united Libya might bring about Italy's return to control over Cyrenaica should the UN approve an Italian trusteeship for Tripolitania, has reportedly prompted Emir Sayid Idriss to suggest the establishment of an independent government in Tripolitania united with the Government of Cyrenaica on a federal system under the Senussi crown. This proposal was reportedly made during the Emir's recent talks with a Tripolitanian delegation headed by Mohammed Abu al-Assaad.

*(Columbo)* Czech again disrupts UNCIP harmony. The Czech delegate may be attempting to split the UN Commission for India and Pakistan by playing on personal dislikes within the Commission. He backed Chairman Lozano, in preference to US delegate Macatee as the liaison between the Commission and the Government of Pakistan. The Belgian delegate opposed the selection of Lozano both because of his personal antipathy for the Czech delegate and because of what he termed Lozano's attempts to get and keep in the limelight.

Membership tangle inspires Machiavellian proposal. To avoid recurrent Soviet vetoes of the seven pro-Western applicants for UN membership, a member of the French delegation unofficially proposed that the Western Powers accept the Soviet demand for SC approval of all twelve applicants but contrive to defeat the Satellites in the GA. Western acceptance of the Satellites in the SC would avoid Soviet vetoes on the pro-Western states which would thereafter receive GA approval. On the other hand, it would be so arranged that despite the favorable SC recommendation on the Satellites, they would fall short of obtaining the requisite two-thirds majority in the Assembly, thus effectively blocking their admission to the UN.

Anti-Soviet voting strength in the ITU. The growing isolation of the Soviet bloc in international technical as well as political bodies is illustrated by recent developments in the International Telecommunications Union. Over bitter Soviet opposition, the Region One ITU Conference passed by a decisive 20-9 vote a motion which, in effect, bypasses the Allied Control Authority in the submission of radio frequency requirements for Germany. In addition, the US has succeeded in marshalling solid opposition to the anticipated USSR move to force the discontinuation of the US-sponsored long range navigational aid system (LORAN) for the North Atlantic area, so that if a vote is taken the Soviet bloc will find itself in a lonely minority.

Czech labor leaders seek to reestablish contact with Western labor. The Czech ILO delegation's invitation to Swiss unions to "investigate conditions" in Czechoslovakia may reflect a Soviet-Satellite effort to reestablish valuable contacts with non-Communist Western European labor through a traditionally neutral

country. Such contacts, once frequent within the World Federation of Trade Unions, have become increasingly difficult since Western European labor's exit from the Federation. Although the Czech Minister of Labor stresses that the proposed visit is a means of promoting trade, it would also afford him (as an ex-Socialist well acquainted in Western European capitals) an opportunity for renewing political and trade union ties with the non-Communists. It is probable that any "investigation" of Czech labor conditions by the Swiss would be a conducted tour designed not to reveal a true picture of labor in a "peoples democracy."